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To: Field Office Managers and Cultural Resource Staff  
From: Acting Deputy State Director, Resources Policy and Management  
Subject: Implementation of the Revised Wyoming BLM/SHPO Protocol

The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to notify Field Office personnel of the impending implementation of the revised Protocol between Wyoming Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

Implementation of the revised Protocol between BLM and the SHPO will take place on July 24, 2006. Beginning on that date, all Section 106 procedures and all consultation with the SHPO will be governed by the terms of the revised Protocol signed on March 8, 2006.

During the Protocol training session in Rock Springs, there was discussion regarding reporting instances of disturbed areas (Section IV.D) through CRMtracker. There is no requirement to enter data on these projects into CRMtracker. However, if not entered into CRMtracker, these projects will not be counted as undertakings in the cultural resources annual report.

Another issue that arose during Protocol training was the addition of a requirement to add compliance with an approved treatment plan or an approved HABS/HAER plan to a project's Conditions of Approval, in lieu of negotiating a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) (Protocol Sections VII.A.1 and VII.B.1). BLM can add Conditions of Approval to an authorization for an application for permit to drill (APD), but we are far more restricted when issuing a Right-of-Way (ROW) grant. An option when issuing a ROW grant is to ask the applicant to amend the Plan of Development to include complying with the treatment plan or HABS/HAER plan, because the Plan of Development becomes part of the project authorization. The goal of these statements in the Protocol is to include in the project authorization the requirement to comply with an approved treatment plan or approved HABS/HAER plan, whether that means a Condition of Approval, an amendment to a Plan of Development, or some other form of authorization. If a situation arises in which it is not possible to place this requirement in a project authorization, we will have to document the need for compliance in an MOA.

Implementation of the new CRMtracker system will also begin on July 24. The new web-based system will be deployed on July 14. Training for consultants in use of the new system is scheduled on July 17 and 18, 2006, in the WYGIS training room at the University of Wyoming, Laramie. BLM Field Office training is scheduled for July 19 and 20, 2006, via telephone and internet. Training is being coordinated by Mary Hopkins, WYCRO. She is scheduling 2 hours per Field Office.

If you have questions about Protocol implementation, please contact Tim Nowak at 307-775-6035 or Judyth Reed at 307-775-6017. For questions regarding CRMtracker training, contact Mary Hopkins, WYCRO, at 307-766-5324.

/s/ Martin G. Griffith